

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW OPISTHOGLYPH SNAKE FROM FORMOSA.

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During a recent visit to the Naturhistorische Museum in Hamburg, the authorities kindly allowed me to examine and describe two specimens of an apparently new opisthoglyph snake collected by Dr. Warburg in Formosa. I am greatly indebted to Dr. Kræpelin, the Director, and to Dr. Pfeffer, the Curator, for permission to make the notes upon which the following description is based, as well as to Dr. Steinhaus, the assistant at the Museum, for kindly helping me in various ways.

The snake in question belongs to the genus characterized by Boulenger (Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus. III, p. 59, 1896,) under the name of *Dipsadomorphus* (Fitzinger, 1845).

This name is clearly antedated by Fitzinger's *Boiga* of 1826. The latter is a composite genus it is true, and Boulenger therefore quotes it in the synonymy of *Dipsadomorphus* as "*Boiga*, part., Fitzing.", but on page 31 (Neue Classif. Rept.) Fitzinger expressly states that the genus *Boiga* is based upon "Merrem's *Coluber irregularis*." This species, therefore, is the type of *Boiga*, a name which cannot be ignored simply because its own author dropped it 17 years after on account of its barbaric origin.

Boiga kraepelini, new species.

Type.—No. 1565, Naturhist. Museum, Hamburg; Kelung, Formosa; Dr. Warburg, collector.

Diagnosis.—Anterior palatine teeth enlarged; diameter of eye equals its distance from anterior border of nostril; upper preocular extending to upper surface of head but separated widely from frontal; scales in 21 rows, median row scarcely enlarged; ventrals 232-245; anal double; caudals 142-143 pairs; posterior chin-shields much shorter than the anterior; temporals 4-5, scale-like, irregular.

Habitat.—Formosa.

Description of type specimen.—About 11 solid maxillary teeth, subequal, slightly separated from grooved fangs which are not much enlarged; head very distinct from neck; eye large, equaling its distance from anterior border of nostril, with vertically elliptical pupil; rostral wider than high, barely visible from above; internasals much broader than long, much shorter than prefrontals; frontal as long as broad, as long as its distance from rostral and as the interparietal suture; nasals large, posterior concave; loreal higher than long; 2 preoculars, the upper one reaching the upper surface of the head, but separated widely from frontal; 2 postoculars; temporals 4 + 5, scale-like, irregular; 9 supralabials of which the third, fourth and fifth enter the eye; 5 (on one side 6) lower labials in contact with anterior chin-shields which are much larger than the posterior pair; body compressed, about twice as high as wide; scales in 21 oblique rows, smooth, with apical pits, the vertebral row scarcely enlarged, the scales pointed behind; ventrals, 245, flat underneath, obtusely angulate laterally; anal double; subcaudals, 142 pairs. Color brownish gray, with about 57 darker cross-bars composed of blackedged scales from neck to anus, then cross-bars extending on the sides to about 4 scale rows from the ventrals; only faint indications of alternating lateral spots; top of head uniform brown; underside pale with a median area more grayish and laterally bordered by an irregular dusky line following the ventral angle.

Description of specimen No. 1569, Hamburg Mus.—The color description of this specimen which was also collected by Dr. Warburg near South Cape, Formosa; is as follows: Ground color paler and more grayish than the type (No. 1565) with better defined crossbands which alternate with a row of lateral spots approximately covering the third, fourth and fifth rows from the ventrals; the ventral median area darker and better defined; head with a median dark line on internasal and prefrontal sutures and middle of frontal, reappearing on the anterior part of upper neck as a median elliptical, brown spot; a similar brownish band from posterior half of supraoculars posteriorly to side of neck where it joins another originating on the upper part of the rostral and running obliquely through nostril and eye over posterior supralabials to side of neck; between these lines a pale gray band with whitish edges; supralabials also pale, more or less marked with dusky and with a dusky spot on the suture below the centre of the eye.

Remarks.—I take great pleasure in dedicating this new species to Professor K. Kræpelin, the distinguished director of the Museum in which the specimens here described are taken care of. It differs from most of the other species of the genus in having a double anal and a scarcely enlarged vertebral scale series; also in the very short posterior chinshields, and especially in the numerous small temporals.

SCALE FORMULA.

Hamburg Mus. No.	Scale rows.	Ventrals.	Anal.	Subcaudals.	Supralabials.	Preoculars.	Postoculars.	Temporals.
1565	21	245	†	† $\frac{11}{2}$	9	2	2	4+5
1569	21	232	†	† $\frac{11}{2}$	9 (10)	2	2 (3)	5+